

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Commissioner Chairman Boyer opened the meeting.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Gary Horner, Extension Office, came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the budget for the office. They feel they can be part of the solution without losing an Extension Agent. Mr. Horner acknowledges that Purdue considers Miami County a two-contract agent county, but we have had three for a long time. Wabash County let one agent go but brought them back. Chairman Boyer asked if they could do without one of the office help. The Extension Office survived last year during the fair using volunteers. Mr. Horner stated they could let one office person go completely if they could keep the agent. Chairman Boyer stated the county is forced to make cuts and they have moved as much as they can to Cum Courthouse. Commissioner Francis stated that he does not want to see anyone lose their job but cuts have to be made. Chairman Boyer asked what would happen if the Board cut the wages of the agents. Mr. Horner stated that any cut to the amount would be considered by Purdue as a cut to the amount of agents Miami County has. Commissioner Faust asked about both office positions being cut. Mr. Horner said there is no way they could lose both office people. There was discussion on whether they could survive with one office and 2 ½ agents. Mr. Horner said he would not like it but it would be better than losing one completely. The Commissioners thanked him for coming in and Mr. Horner thanked the Board for listening.

The Board continued talks of possible cuts. Commissioner Faust made a suggestion of cutting everyone's pay. Commissioner Francis said he would not want to see that. He feels it would be better to get rid of 5 or 6 positions instead of taking from everyone.

Some suggestions included taking one person in each office to part time, cutting insurance benefits, cutting staff and cutting wages.

The BOC feels it is the responsibility of the Council to cut positions. Councilman Wiles stated it is the responsibility of both the Commissioners and the Council.

LIFE INSURANCE

Mike Saine brought in some information that could possibly save on Life insurance.

MUSEUM

Gary Hawley and Elise Kordis, Curator, came before the Board with some ideas for cutting cost. Instead of losing 2 staff to part time Mr. Hawley suggested that the Historical Society pay for utilities (14,080), Heat (16,092) and cut supplies (260), storage (150), travel (527) and moving 3,014 in maintenance to Cum Courthouse. The savings would be over \$34,000.

The Board asked about the \$775,761 in income listed on the 2009 tax papers. Mr. Hawley explained that it was given to the Historical Society when Mrs. Ulery died. Part of it was used to purchase the Fincher building that will be used for storage. They really need the staff because of the large areas they cover.

Commissioner Francis stated he loves history as much as anyone but they were not just looking at salaries but benefits and insurance saving as well. The proposal is to cut the amount needed and to lose any staff.

Commissioner Francis asked if they could make those cuts and 1 person to part time. Mr. Hawley said no.

RECORDER

Brenda Weaver, Recorder, was in attendance to show support for the Museum. Mrs. Weaver also asked John Powell, IT, if the Board was going to ask Dept, Heads to help pay for printing cost.

The Commissioners also reminded her that all contracts should come before them.

SHERIFF

The Sheriff asked the Board for an ordinance that would impose a charge for sex offenders who need to register and a charge for every address change. The Board will have the County Attorney look over the ordinance.

The Sheriff also asked the Board about replacing all the batteries at the jail. The Board will talk to Jack Krause next week.

The Sheriff informed the Board that one of the road deputies had surgery this week. He is doing well but the Sheriff is not sure he will be able to return to the road. If he cannot, the Sheriff will need to replace him.

HIGHWAY

Commissioner Boyer told Sam Waltz, Highway Supervisor, he was impressed with the work that has been done in Converse.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Pat Roberts would like to meet with the Board in an attorney/client meeting.

Commissioner Faust made a motion to recess until 1:30 and Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

BACK IN SESSION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Debbie Bowsher asked permission to have the domestic violence event in the rotunda on March 29th. She also requested the Coalition have permission to place the crosses on the lawn in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (April). Commissioner Francis made a motion to allow and Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Faust made a motion to approve the payroll. Commissioner Francis 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Commissioner Francis made a motion to pay fuel claims. Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Francis made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION

_____, **Chairman**
C. Craig Boyer

_____, **Vice Chairman**
H. Jon Faust

_____, **Member**
Joshua Francis

Attest: _____, **Auditor**
Jane Lilley